

A NEW SPECIES OF *VERBESINA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM OAXACA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Verbesina miahuatlana B.L. Turner *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated from Distrito Miahuatlán, Oaxaca. It is known only from two collections, both obtained in pine-oak forests between 2700-2825 m. It belongs to the *Verbesina virgata* complex (ca. eight species) but can be distinguished from all of these by its much larger coarsely serrate leaves and loosely corymbose paniculate capitulescence.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Verbesina*, México, Oaxaca, systematics

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

VERBESINA MIAHUATLANA B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, Xianaguilla, 2700 m, oak and pine forests, 21 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 26294 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Similis *V. virgatae* sed foliis latioribus (3-9 cm latis vice 1.5-2.5 cm latis), cum marginibus valde serratis, et capitulis parvioribus, dispositis in paniculis rotundatis et corymbosis, pedunculis ultimis gracilibus et flexuosis (vice crassorum et rigide erectorum).

Shrub to 2.5 m high. Stems sparsely strigose, narrowly corky winged for 1-3 cm below each node. Larger leaves alternate, 9-24 cm long, 3-8 cm wide; petioles 5-20 mm long; blades pinnately nervate, broadly ovate to elliptic, gradually tapering upon the petioles, sparsely strigose above and below, especially along the major veins, the margins irregularly serrate. Heads numerous, arranged in terminal corymbose panicles, scarcely exceeding the leaves, the ultimate peduncles mostly 5-15 mm long. Involucres broadly campanulate, 4-5 mm high, 6-8 mm wide (pressed); bracts 2-4 seriate, narrowly ovate, subgraduate, black, the apices acute. Receptacle ca. 2 mm across, 1 mm high, the chaff shorter than the subtended florets, their apices abruptly acute. Ray florets 5-8, pistillate fertile; ligules yellow, 6-9 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, 4-6 nervate, their apices with 2-3 shallow lobes; tubes ca. 1.5 mm long, pubescent.

Disk florets 30-40 (est.); corollas yellow, ca. 3 mm long, the tube ca. 0.75 mm long, pubescent; lobes glabrous, ca. 0.7 mm long. Anthers brown. Achenes ca. 2 mm long, the faces sparsely strigose, the margins ciliate; pappus of 2 subequal persistent awns ca. 2 mm long.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MEXICO. Oaxaca. Distrito Miahuatlán, Siete Ocotes to Xianaguilla, 2825 m, 21 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 26277 (TEX).

The present novelty is closely related to a group of species centering about the widespread *Verbesina virgata*. The distribution of this complex is shown in more detail by Turner (1992). *Verbesina miahuatlana* differs from these in possessing broader leaves, more numerous heads arranged in rounded corymbose panicles, and having black, broadly campanulate involucre, among yet other characters.

The holotype represents a lush collection with very large leaves, while the additional collection has much smaller, less serrate leaves, but in all other characters the two plants are alike and unquestionably belong to the same species.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Turner, B.L. 1992. Two new species of *Verbesina* (Asteraceae) from southern México. *Phytologia* 72:109-114.